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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT  
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PATENT

Atty. Docket No. 06005/35500

617-2787-#3  
4-25-01  
2188

Applicant(s): Larson et al.

Serial No.: 09/408,028

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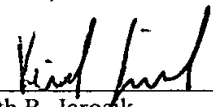
Group Art Unit: 2787

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April 16, 2001

  
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SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Assistant Commissioner<sup>3</sup> for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Pursuant to the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, the information identified on the enclosed Form PTO-1449 is disclosed to the examiner for consideration in connection with the above-identified patent application. Copies of the documents listed on the Form PTO-1449 are enclosed herewith.

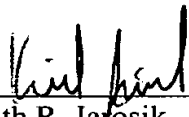
This Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted before receipt of a first Office action on the merits and, consequently, should be considered by the Patent Office without payment of a fee. See 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)(3). Furthermore, each item of information contained in this Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement was cited or originated in a communication from a foreign (PCT) patent office in a counterpart foreign (PCT) application not more than three months prior to the filing (mailing) of this

Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement. For this further reason, no fee is due for consideration of this information. See, 37 C.F.R. §1.97(c)(1). However, if any additional fee is required for the consideration of this information, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge such fee to Deposit Account No. 13-2855. A copy of this paper is enclosed herewith.

Respectfully submitted,

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April 16, 2001